Nations requires approval of the General Assembly to amend rule 51 of the Procedures. Such a proposal has to be approved by a majority in the UN General Assembly. Informal consultations held by the Government in the past and a number of related factors such as the financial crisis faced by the United Nations indicate that this is not an appropriate time to make such a proposal in the United Nations. However, there is no bar to the use of Hindi or any other language in the UN General Assembly or its Committees, subject to the concerned delegation making the necessary arrangements for interpretation. We have availed ourselves of this facility when required.

False propaganda by Amnesty international against India

1506. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Economic Times' New Delhi, dated the 26th June, 1992 captioned "Amnesty shows target India";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to check the false propaganda by Amnesty International?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Government has noted the news item referred to. Our Missions abroad have been provided with the relevant material to counter such propaganda.

India Mission in United States of America

1507. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Mission in the U.S.A. is at present without any Head;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and how soon the Ambassador is likely be appointed; and

(c) whether because of this situation many vital interests of India could not be attended to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. The Mission is being headed by Charge d' Affairs.

(b) The former Ambasador, Shri Abid Hussain relinquished charge on 5-7-92 on completion of his tenure. A new Ambassador is likely to be appointed soon.

(c) No, Sir.

Presence of big naval powers in Indian Ocean

1508. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the *Hindu* dated 1st July, 1992, captioned "Indian Ocean minus peace";

(b) if so, whether with the recent Indo-US joint naval exercises the concept of establishing Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has been given a final go by; and

(c) what is the latest position about the presence of big naval powers in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the captioned report which appeared in the *Hindu* dated 1st June, 1992.